

## **Alaskan Way Viaduct closes for approx. two weeks starting April 29, 2016**

( Expected disruptions to downtown Seattle and regional traffic patterns )

Beginning Friday, April 29, the SR 99 Alaskan Way Viaduct will be closed for approximately two weeks while Bertha, the SR 99 tunneling machine, travels beneath the structure. The viaduct will be closed between the south end of the Battery Street Tunnel and the West Seattle Bridge. Until April 29, the machine will remain at the maintenance stop just south of Yesler Way.

This temporary closure of the viaduct is precautionary. Removing vehicles from the structure will give crews better access to the viaduct to monitor it as Bertha tunnels underneath, and to quickly address any movement that might occur. Additionally, WSDOT recognizes that advertising a planned closure ahead of time, instead of conducting an unexpected and last-minute closure, will give the traveling public time to plan their trips accordingly.

### **Make a travel plan and expect additional congestion throughout the region**

This closure will **disrupt local and regional traffic patterns**. WSDOT is coordinating with other transportation agencies to keep people moving through a variety of measures, but is expecting the closure to increase traffic congestion regardless. We are asking travelers in Seattle and the surrounding region to plan ahead and consider adjusting their travel habits to help us keep people moving on highways and city streets.

We recommend that you:

- Allow plenty of extra travel time and expect rush hour congestion to start earlier and end later.
- If possible, consider leaving early or delaying your trip to avoid traveling during peak times. Know before you go and check out the [travel resources page](#) so you can make informed travel choices during the closure.
- Consider working from home if you can, to avoid commuting altogether.

### **Need help making a travel plan?**

Take a look at this [travel alternatives handout](#) for a detailed list of resources and options for changing your commute.

### **Stay up-to-date**

For the latest information regarding traffic conditions and tunneling progress:

- Bookmark the official [99closure.org](http://99closure.org) website.
- Check Twitter for major traffic and project alerts: [@BerthaDigsSR99](#), [@WSDOT\\_Traffic](#), [@SeattleDOT](#), [@KCMetroBus](#), [@SoundTransit](#), [@MyCom mTrans](#), [#99closure](#)
- Contact us at [viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov) or 1-888-AWV-LINE (298-5463).

### **Cecelia Gunn**

Communications and Public Involvement

Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program

206.805.2881 [gunnc@consultant.wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:gunnc@consultant.wsdot.wa.gov)